

for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring 2000

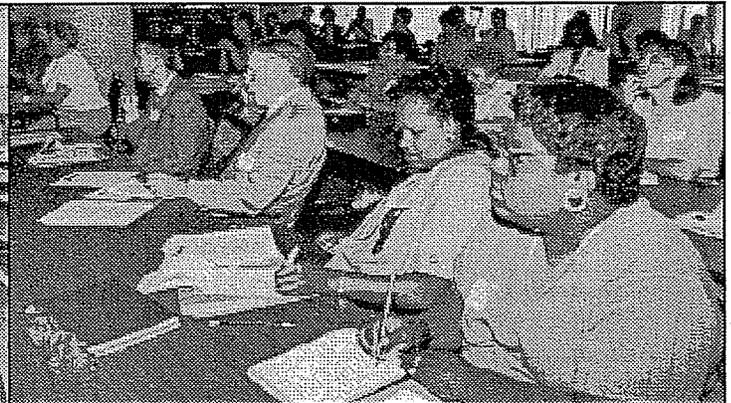
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There is plenty of opportunity for sharing information or asking questions at the annual Kentucky Archives Institute, a popular July event with general researchers, librarians, and genealogists. This year's event is scheduled for July 14th.

A Vital Source: 200 Years of Vital Statistics in Kentucky

Vital statistics records are among the most valuable and widely used resources at the State Archives. Information on births, marriages and deaths is indispensable to the genealogist, and can be of considerable legal significance as well. The Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), offers access to many of these records on microfilm in the Archives Research Room.

Early efforts of the Auditor's Office

The first vital statistics law in Kentucky was passed in 1852, and required the Auditor's Office to maintain a record of all births, marriages, and deaths in

the state. This law was later repealed. Another vital statistics law was enacted in 1874 but was also soon repealed. Therefore, birth, marriage and death records are present for many counties for the years 1852-1859 and 1874-1878 but not for the years in between. These records are arranged by county, and then by year. Records for the remaining years through 1910 are scattered and vary in availability by county. There is no statewide index, and the records are not in alphabetical or chronological order within each year.

What's in a Record?

The contents of the vital statistics records will vary. Generally, the birth records provide the name, sex, and race of the child,

Kentucky Archives Institute Scheduled for July

Make your plans now to attend the 16th annual Kentucky Archives Institute, co-sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives and KDLA, to be held on Friday, July 14, 2000, at the main KDLA building on Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort. The tentative program agenda includes sessions on Kentucky state, local and judicial records; research with military records; and records of the Land Office in the Office of the Secretary of State. Joining us as a featured luncheon speaker will be Charles Reeves, Atlanta Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, who will speak on Kentucky - related Federal records held at his facility. Please plan to join us for this interesting and enjoyable day! Registration will be from 8:30 to 9:00, and lunch is included in the registration fee (please see registration form on page 3, inside).

the date and place of birth, and the names and place of residence of the parents. Some of the later records contain birthplace of parents as well. The marriage records list the date of marriage, the groom's name, age, place of birth, and "condition" (single, divorced, widower), and the same information for the bride. Occasionally the groom's occupation and the birthplaces of the parents of the

bride and groom are also given. The death records provide the name, age, sex, and race of the deceased, as well as that person's occupation, birthplace, place of residence, and place, cause, and date of death.

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Archives Research Room Hours and Closings for 2000

Archives Research Room Hours and Closings for 2000

KDLA's Archives Research Room is located at 300 Coffee Tree Road, off State Highway 676 in Frankfort. The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays, on Saturdays preceding Monday holidays or following Friday holidays, and on official state holidays.

Ample free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Special closings, June through September 2000 – Please mark your calendars!

- May 27th (Saturday), for the Memorial Day weekend
- July 4th (Tuesday), for Independence Day
- July 14th (Friday), for the annual Kentucky Archives Institute
- September 2nd (Saturday), for Labor Day weekend

For more information, visit us at www.kdla.net.

General Assembly Approves Funding for Archives' Projects

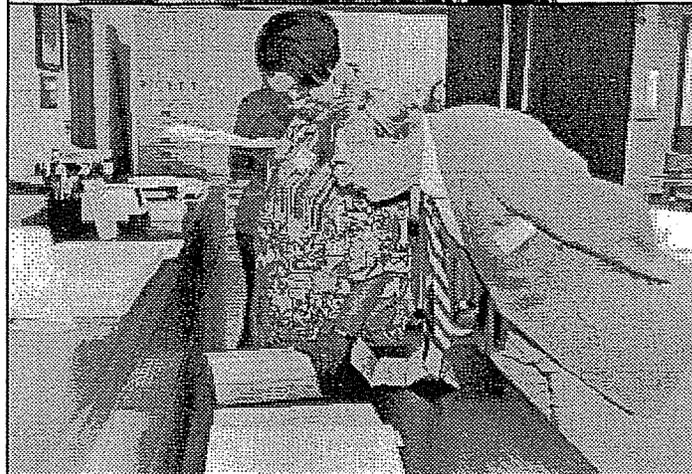
The 2000 General Assembly approved funding for two State Archives' related projects included in Governor Patton's budget. Included is an appropriation of \$200,000 for an archival storage feasibility study, to address the critical need to meet archival storage requirements of state and local governments for the next 25 years. The study will focus on the best means to (1) expand capacity to manage, preserve and make accessible archival collections, in all media, with a special focus on the construction and development of a digital archives; (2) increase space for imaging services and micrographics operations, to expanded digital conversion of paper records to electronic form; (3) enlarge public services and reference areas; and (4) dedicate space for KDLA's training activities with state and local agency personnel. The projected building addition would be an expansion to the existing Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' facility.

The General Assembly also approved \$1.188 million to create a Document Management Digitization System (DMDS), to expand KDLA's capacity to convert documents from paper to digital format. The DMDS will also permit KDLA to respond to growing enterprise, or state-government wide, demand for document image management services and to digitize incoming paper records in sufficient volume to limit the growth of paper collections. Of this amount, \$375,000 is projected for the specialized systems planning and development required to meet unique archival needs.

The digital archives and the DMDS have the potential to make KDLA a key shared services center for all of state government, permitting

the Commonwealth to secure electronic records of archival value, maximize use of archival storage facilities, and improve access to records.

For the Record,
Vol. 1, No. 3
A publication of the
Friends of Kentucky Public
Archives, Inc.
P. O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604



Archives Institute participants enjoy a full day of information exchange, with lunch included. Plan to be there July 14th!

Newly Available at the State Archives

- Land Commissioners' Book for the District of Kentucky, 1783-84
- Land Entry Book, 1783-84
- Order Book for the Virginia Supreme Court for the District of Kentucky, 1787-88

As most people know, the area that is now Kentucky was part of Virginia until statehood in 1792. The earliest settlers were therefore subject to Virginia law. Several recent accessions provide interesting insights into the legal history of pre-statehood Kentucky.

Many early settlers in Kentucky laid claims to lands based on various warrants or land entries, some dating back to the French and Indian War in the 1760's. Quite often, these land claims

were only vaguely surveyed or marked, and would overlap or conflict. The Virginia legislature found it necessary to appoint land commissioners in 1779 to assess and resolve some of the claims. The three Commissioners met at St. Asaph's (Logan's Fort) from October 1779 to February 1780. The "Land Commissioners' Book for the District of Kentucky" documents their findings. Each entry includes the names of the petitioners, a brief description of the land survey and the basis on which it was claimed, and the Commissioners' final decision. Many prominent early Kentuckians are represented, including Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark, James Harrod, and Benjamin Logan.

Cont'd. on p.4

Registration for the Kentucky Archives Institute

Mail registration form with payment to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives Inc.
Kentucky Archives Institute
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604

Registration fees: \$40 fee covers the cost of all Institute materials and lunch.
\$45 fee covers Institute materials, lunch, and Friends membership for July-Dec., 2000.
Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch. _____

Make checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. (Fees are non-refundable)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ I would like more information about the Friends. _____

Please submit your registration by July 10. Space is limited to 50 attendees.

Municipal and County Sources

(Cont'd. from p.1)

Several of the larger cities in Kentucky (Louisville, Lexington, Covington and Newport) maintained their own birth and death records for certain periods prior to 1911, and these are also available at the State Archives. These records occasionally include more information than those maintained by the Auditor. City of Louisville death records, for example, may list the street address of the deceased, as well as the place of interment. Along with the Auditor collection, these city records are the only official Kentucky birth or death records available for the period 1852-1910.

Marriage records are maintained by the County Clerk's Office in each county. These local marriage records are much more extensive than those in the Vital Statistics collection. Researchers searching for African-American marriage records will be more likely to find them in marriage records maintained by County Clerks. Many of these local records, generally dating back to the formation of the county, are also available at the State Archives on microfilm.



A wealth of Kentucky vital statistics information is available through the Archives Research Room, at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives building in Frankfort. The KDLA building is also the site of the July 14th Kentucky Archives Institute.

A Modern Vital Statistics Law

The Office of Vital Statistics was created in 1911, when the current law took effect, and that office maintains birth and death records from 1911 to the present. The Archives Research Room has statewide indexes to these records from 1911-1999 on microfiche. Public Records Division staff has recently created a new electronic version of these indexes. Accessible from the two public computer workstations in the Research Room, as well as from staff computers, the indexes are in Microsoft Access and are searchable. The indexes provide a certificate number, which can then be used to locate the appropriate record, as well as the date of birth or death. Copies of the actual death certificates are available on microfilm for 1911-1949. Death certificates for 1950 to present and birth certificates for 1911 to present have access restrictions. Researchers must contact the Office of Vital Statistics directly for those records.

A visitor to the Archives Research Room can therefore search vital statistics records from 1852-1910, birth and death indexes from 1911-1999, death certificates from 1911-1949, and marriage records from most counties. The information contained in these records provides an essential insight into the lives of many Kentuckians over the past hundred and fifty years.

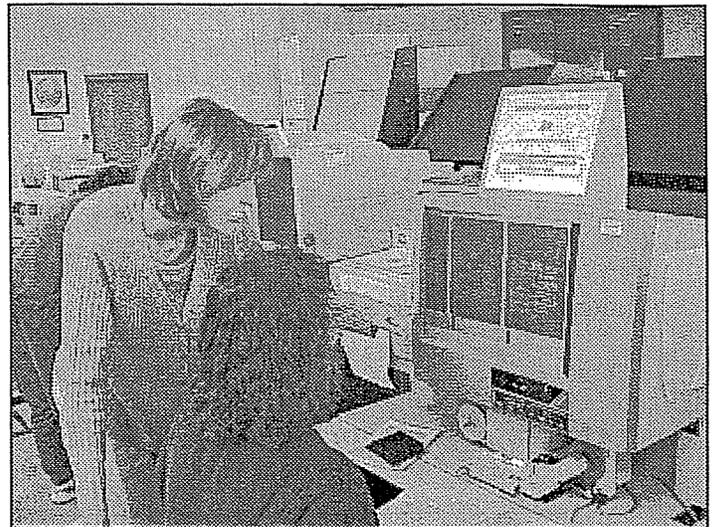
Newly Available...

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The work of the Land Commissioners was only a short-term solution, however. The "Land Entry Book," dated 1783-1784, lists claims entered by holders of Kentucky land warrants or grants. Each entry contains the name of the land claimant, the number of acres and the land survey boundaries. These survey descriptions generally include references to physical landmarks. A typical description reads "...at a white oak, thence West 500 poles to two sugar trees, thence North 320 poles to a hickory and elm..." Trees could be cut down, or there might be more than one hickory and elm, so the reliance on these types of landmarks often led to confusion and dis-

putes over land titles that plagued Kentucky for years thereafter.

In 1783, Virginia created the Supreme Court for the District of Kentucky. This court had jurisdiction over many matters that had previously required the disputants to travel to Richmond for legal relief, including certain appeals from county courts and most felony cases. The "Order Book," dated 1787-1788, contains the orders, motions and judgments rendered in the cases brought before this Court. Many of the cases concerned land disputes, but other civil and criminal actions were also heard. Again, many notable Kentuckians from the pioneer era can be found in this volume, including Squire Boone, James Wilkinson, and Simon Kenton.



Demand for microfilm reader-printers in the Archives Research Room is very high year round but particularly so during the summer vacation months. The Research Room is making a concerted effort to renew its reader printer inventory, as parts for older machines are no longer available for normal maintenance.

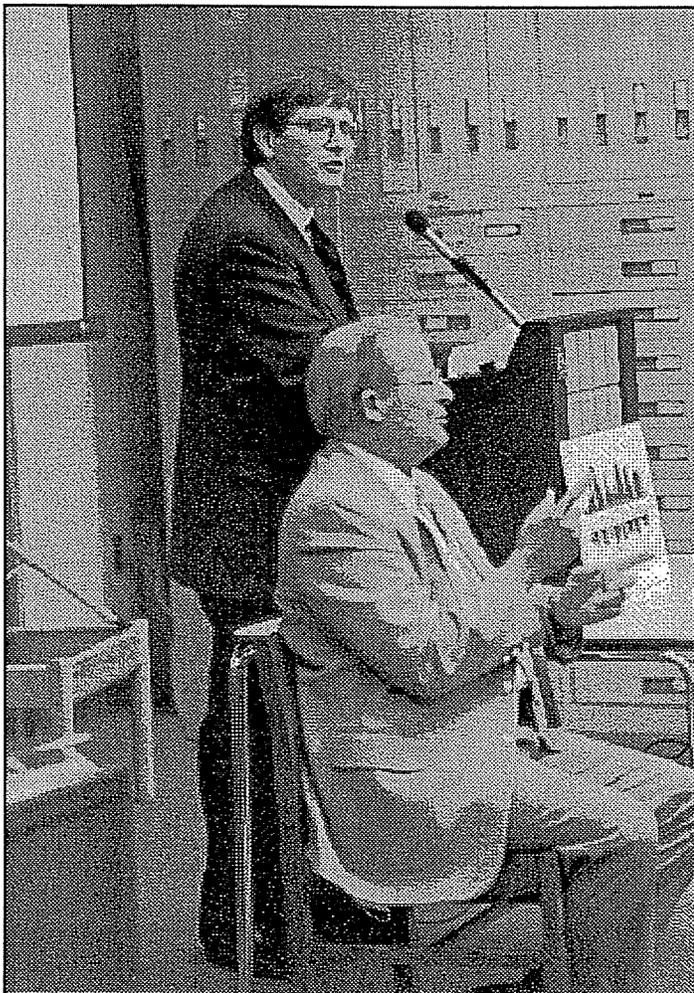
A Major Request

With the thousands of on site researchers visiting the Archives Research Room (ARR) annually, there is always a demand for more microfilm reader printers. Unfortunately, state funds are rarely available for these purchases, even though they are essential to deliver basic services. Some of the ARR's best machines have been discontinued, and parts are no longer available to repair them.

For the donor who would like to make a major contribution to improving Research Room services:

Minolta 2000 Digital Microform Reader-Printer, \$12,000

This machine provides wonderful versatility, much sharper print quality, faster print speeds, a stand-alone laser printer, and the ability to digitally scan microfilm for e-mail or web transmission or other uses. This would be a wonderful gift, and as a designated gift to the Friends, it is tax deductible.



Interesting lecture sessions and time for one on one conversations with speakers are a regular feature of the Kentucky Archives Institute in July.

How You Can Help!

The Archives Research Room at the State Archives always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available. Private donations have long played an important role in permitting the State Archives to fill these important gaps. Many donors like to know exactly how their contribution will help, and in response to such requests, we're glad to make the list below available.

Since the last issue of *For the Record*, donations have been received for two of the items on our list: *Roll of Honor: Roster of 191,000 Union Soldiers Buried in 300 National Cemeteries, and Kentucky Marriages, 1851-1900*. Thanks very much for this support. It is much appreciated, and it will help enrich the research opportunities of all that visit the State Archives!

Won't you be a Friend and contribute funds toward the purchase of one or more items? Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible. Please direct your support to the address on the Friends' membership form, below. Thanks for your help!

Microfilm

Freedmen's Bureau Records for Kentucky. Records of the Office of the Comptroller of Currency: Registers of Signatures of Depositions in Branches (Lexington & Louisville) of the Freedmen's Savings & Trust Banks, 1 roll, \$34.00.

Freedmen's Bureau Records for Kentucky American Freedmen's Inquiry Commission. 3 rolls, \$102

CD ROM

1850 Kentucky Census Index. \$49.95

Books

1890 Kentucky Veterans Census Index. \$33.00

Compendium of the Confederate Armies.- Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, by Stewart Sifakis \$27.50

Early Louisville, Kentucky Newspaper Abstracts 1806-1828, Crowder. \$28.00

1787 Census of Virginia, Schreiner-Yantis, 3 vols. \$200.00.

A Genealogical Collection of Kentucky Birth and Death Records, Vol. 1. S. K. Edlemon, \$16.00.

Remembering Charles H. Jett, Jr.

Staff of the State Archives and members of the Board of the Friends were saddened to learn of the recent death of long time Friends' Life Member Charles H. Jett, Jr., of Lexington. Mr. Jett was active in the Friends from its inception. He was a member of the Friends' Board of Directors during the late 1980's and played an important role in helping develop the capital base of the Friends' Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund for internships in archival administration. We extend our sympathy to his wife and family.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is a not for profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Public Records Division of Kentucky's Department for Libraries and Archives fulfill its role as a vital information link between people and government. The Friends' organization supports the management, preservation, and use of Kentucky's historic public records and serves as an advocate for the Kentucky State Archives, which the division manages. For further information, contact the Friends at P. O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604.

Become a Friends' Life Member!

Won't you consider a Life Membership? Proceeds from Friends' Life membership dues provide special support to the archival internship program funded through the Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund. The fee, \$250 for a life membership, can be paid as a single payment or through five payments of \$50 each, over a two-year period. This program welcomes your support. For further information, please use the membership renewal form in the newsletter and contact the Friends through the listed address. Thanks for your help!

Yes, I would like to renew my membership in / become a member of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

My check for _____ made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is enclosed. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, a membership pin, and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, the Public Archives Symposium and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends beyond the basic membership are tax deductible.

Name: _____

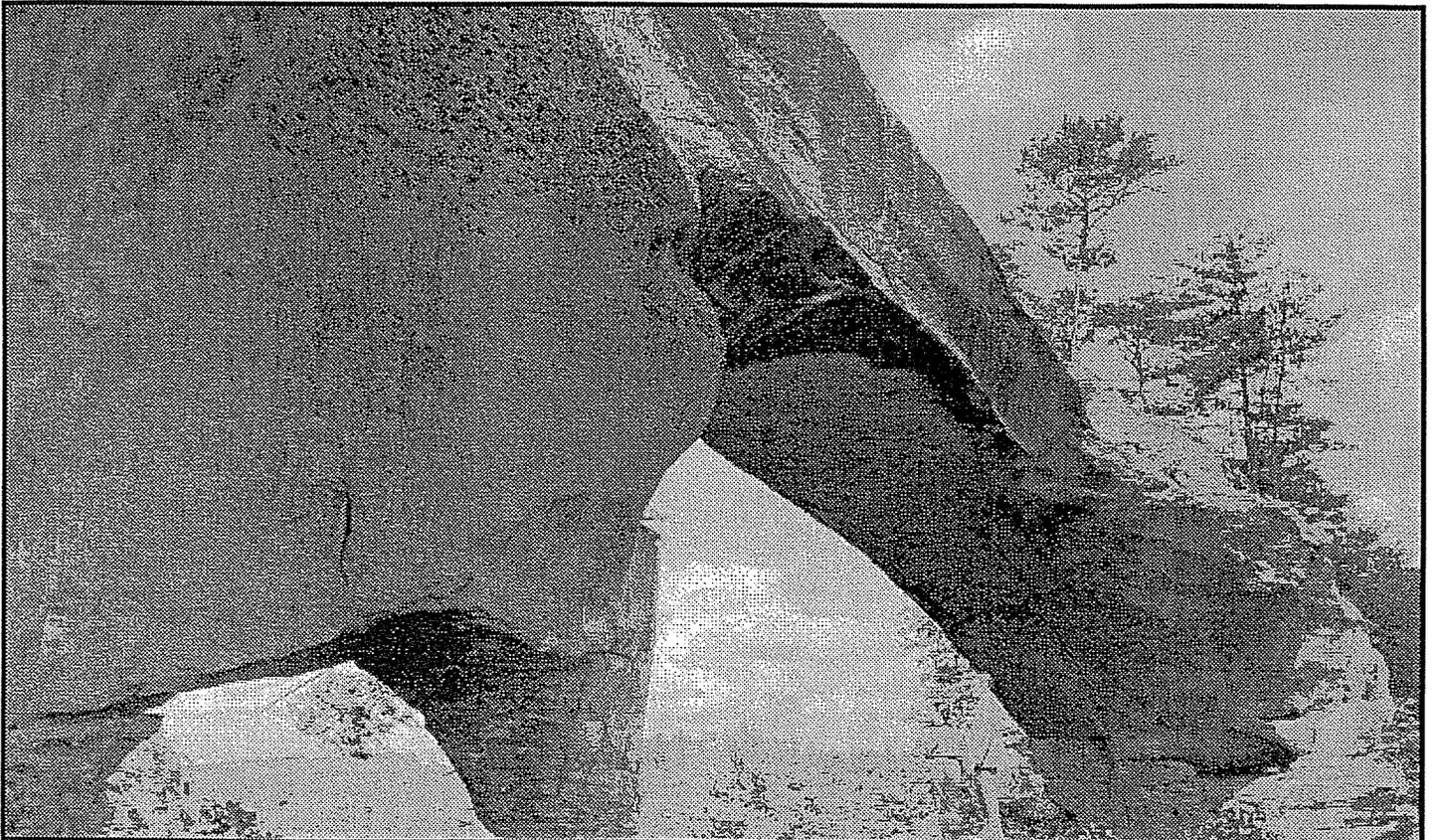
Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Membership levels: _____ \$15 Individual / Family _____ \$25 Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies _____ \$250 Life
_____ \$50 Sustaining _____ \$1,000 Corporate

Please clip and mail to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604

We appreciate your support.



The Natural Bridge in Powell County is Kentucky's most famous natural arch. It was formed in a narrow sandstone ridge along a drainage divide in the intricately dissected topography of the Pottsville Escarpment. Now part of the Natural Bridge State Resort Park, it has been a major tourist attraction for many years, enjoyed by visitors from around the world. (This photograph is from the Works Projects Administration Collection, in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40604